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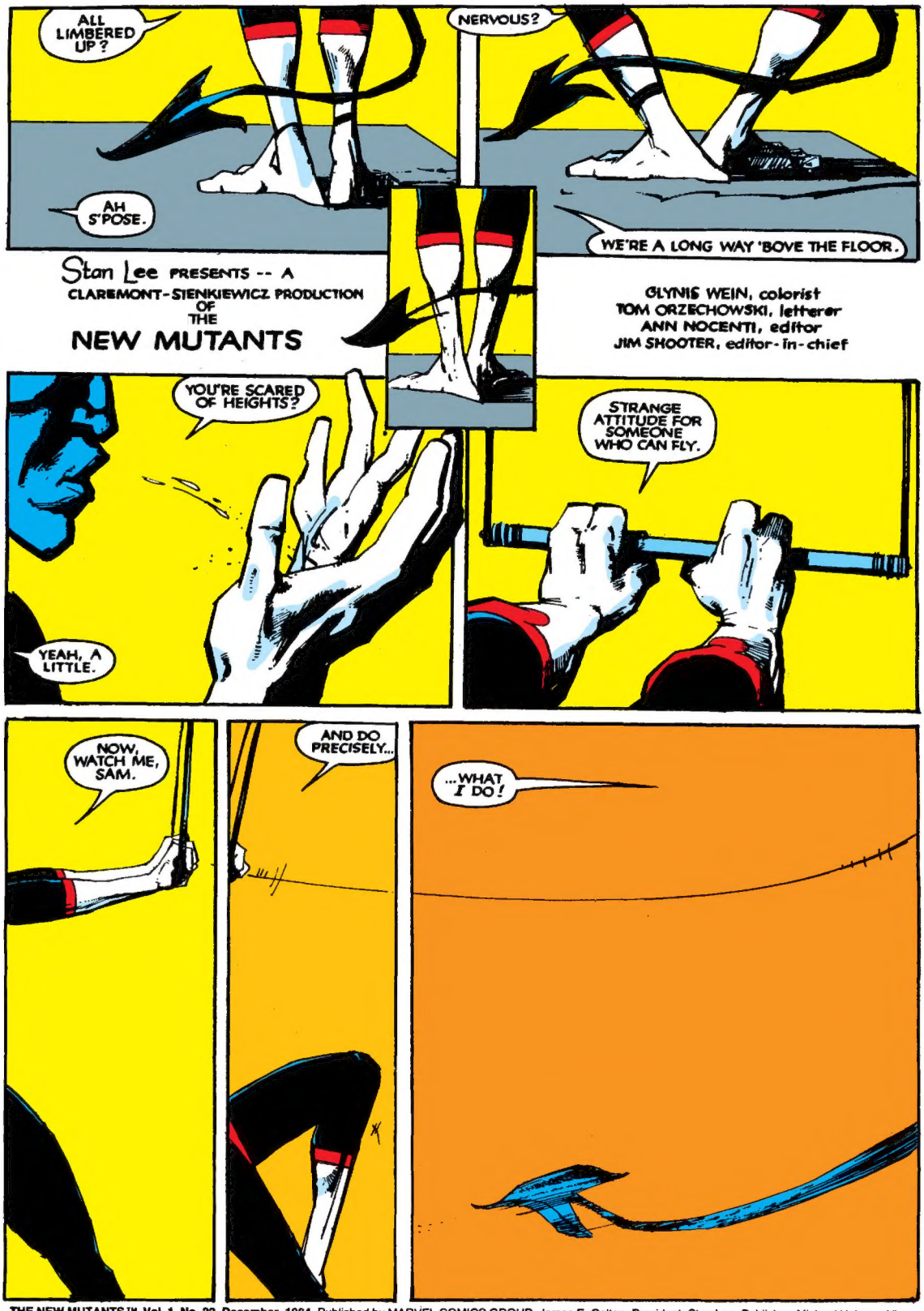
THE NEW MUTANTS™
once upon a time...


ALL LIMBERED UP?
AH S'POSE.
NERVOUS?
WE'RE A LONG WAY 'BOVE THE FLOOR.
Stan Lee PRESENTS -- A CLAREMONT-SIENKIEWICZ PRODUCTION OF THE NEW MUTANTS
GLYNIS WEIN, colorist
TOM ORZECHOWSKI, letterer
ANN NOCENTI, editor
JIM SHOOTER, editor-in-chief
YOU'RE SCARED OF HEIGHTS?
YEAH, A LITTLE.
STRANGE ATTITUDE FOR SOMEONE WHO CAN FLY.
NOW, WATCH ME, SAM.
AND DO PRECISELY...
...WHAT I DO!

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THE SHADOW WITHIN

BEFORE HE JOINED THE X-MEN, KURT WAGNER--OTHERWISE KNOWN AS NIGHTCRAWLER-- LIVED AND WORKED IN A SMALL COUNTRY CIRCUS. IT WAS HIS ONLY HOME...

...A WAY OF LIFE HE STILL MISSES, AND YEARNS FOR.

HE WAS AN ACROBAT, AN AERIALIST...

...POTENTIALLY ONE OF THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

BUT HE WAS ALSO A MUTANT, WITH THE FORM OF A DEMON, AND POWERS THAT FOREVER BRANDED HIM AN OUTCAST.

SAM GUTHRIE'S A MUTANT, TOO...

...AND--HERE IN THE DANGER ROOM--NIGHTCRAWLER'S TRYING TO TEACH HIM HOW BEST TO USE HIS OWN UNIQUE ABILITIES.

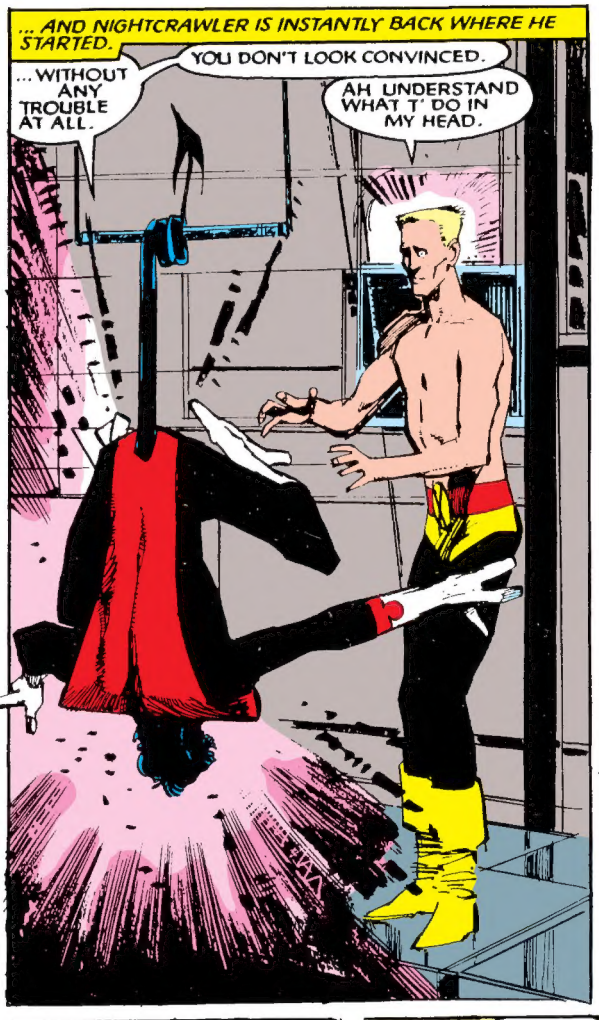
SEE HOW EASY THIS IS?!

LET YOUR BODY FLOW NATURALLY FROM ONE MOVEMENT TO THE NEXT.

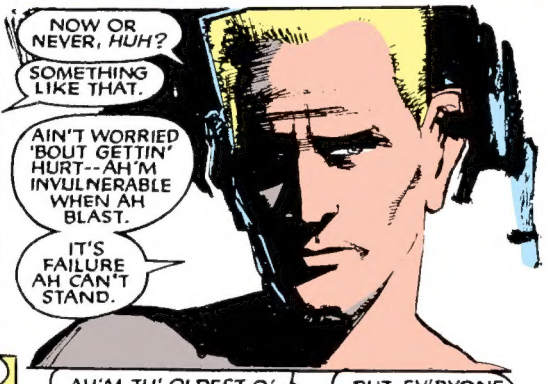
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO SHIFT ORIENTATION IN MID-FLIGHT...

WITHOUT WARNING, THERE'S A BURST OF SMOKE AND FLAME, THE STENCH OF BRIMSTONE, THE SOUND OF IMPLODING AIR...

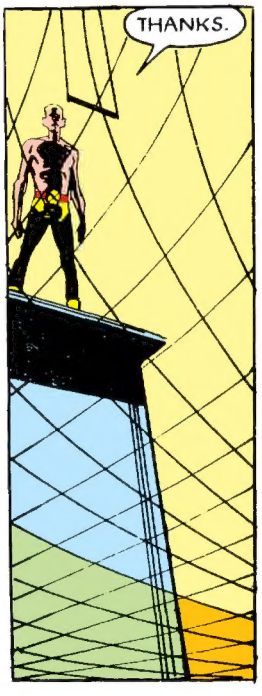
BAMF


... AND NIGHTCRAWLER IS INSTANTLY BACK WHERE HE STARTED.
... WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE AT ALL.
YOU DON'T LOOK CONVINCED.
AH UNDERSTAND WHAT T' DO IN MY HEAD.

THE PROBLEM'S GETTIN' MY BODY T' FOLLOW THROUGH.
THERE HAS TO BE A FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING.
STOP WORRYING ABOUT IT, SAM--DON'T THINK--JUST DO.


NOW OR NEVER, HUH?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
AIN'T WORRIED 'BOUT GETTIN' HURT--AH'M INVULNERABLE WHEN AH BLAST.
IT'S FAILURE AH CAN'T STAND.

I'M ESTABLING A NET. YOU CAN FALL WITHOUT FEAR.
BLEEP!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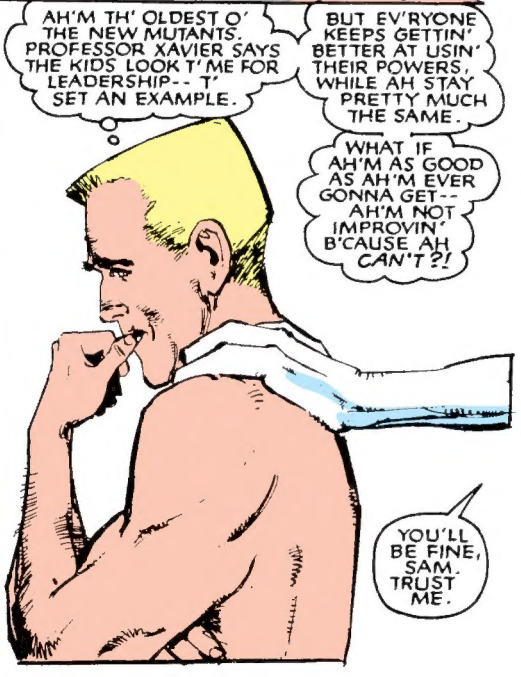
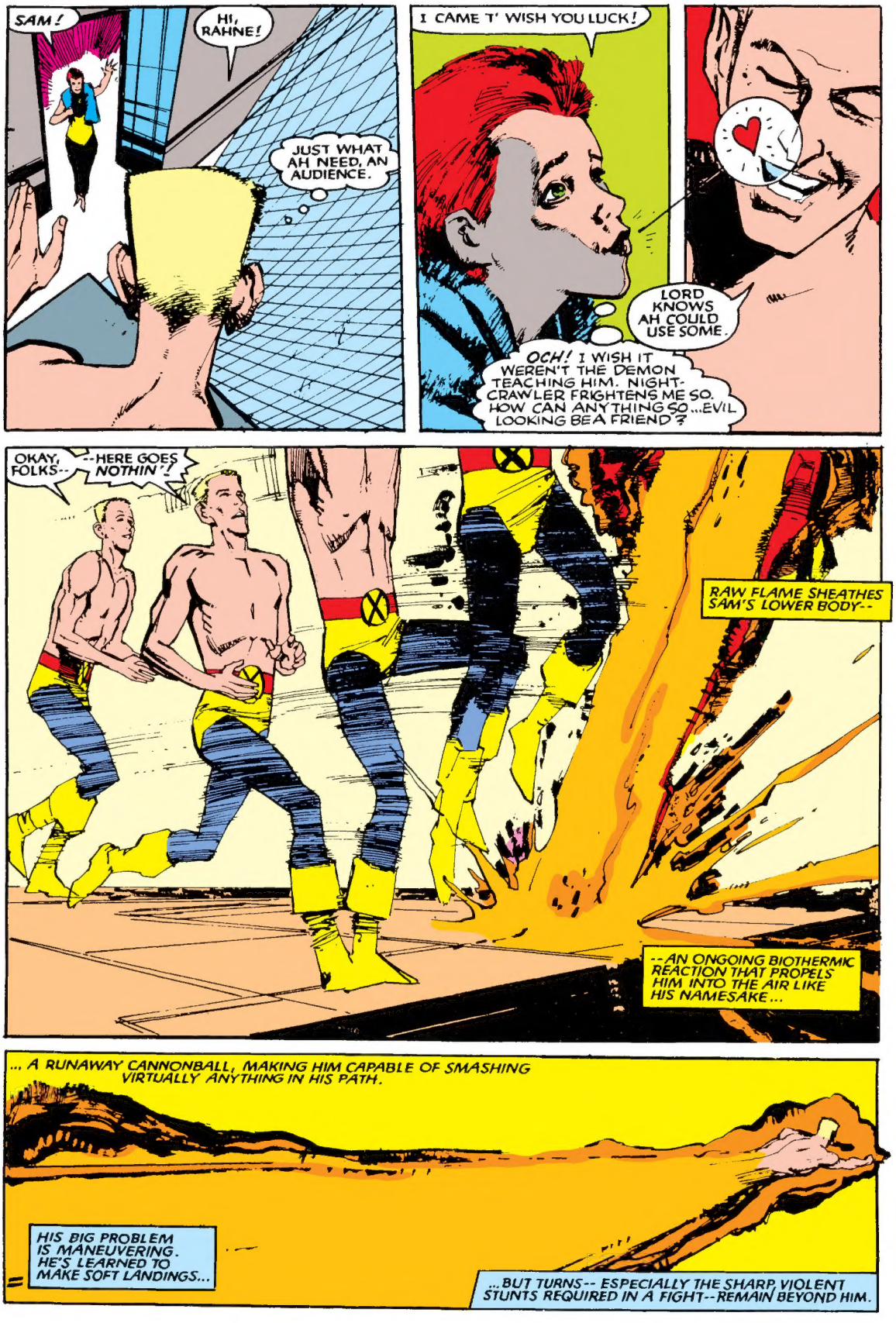
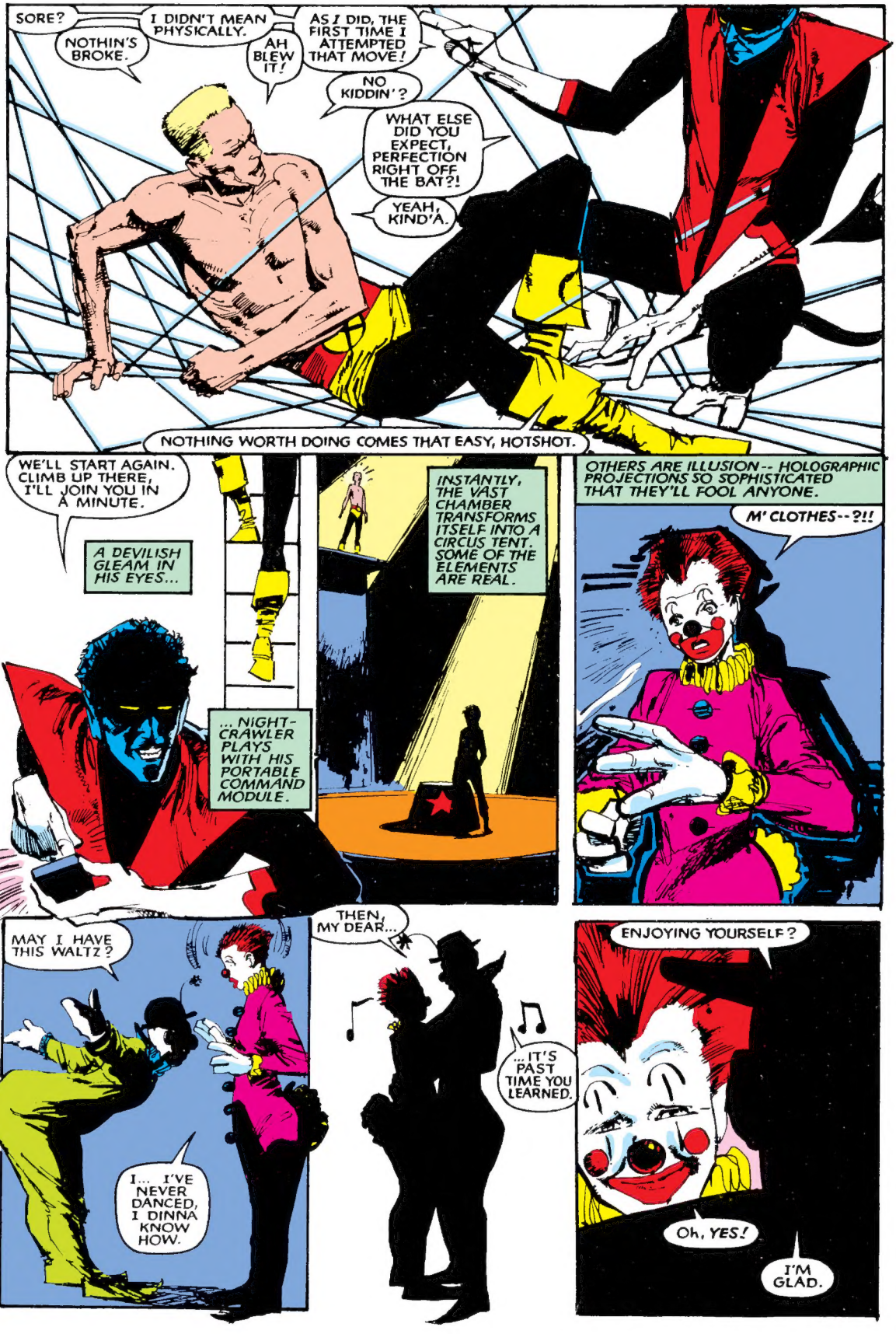
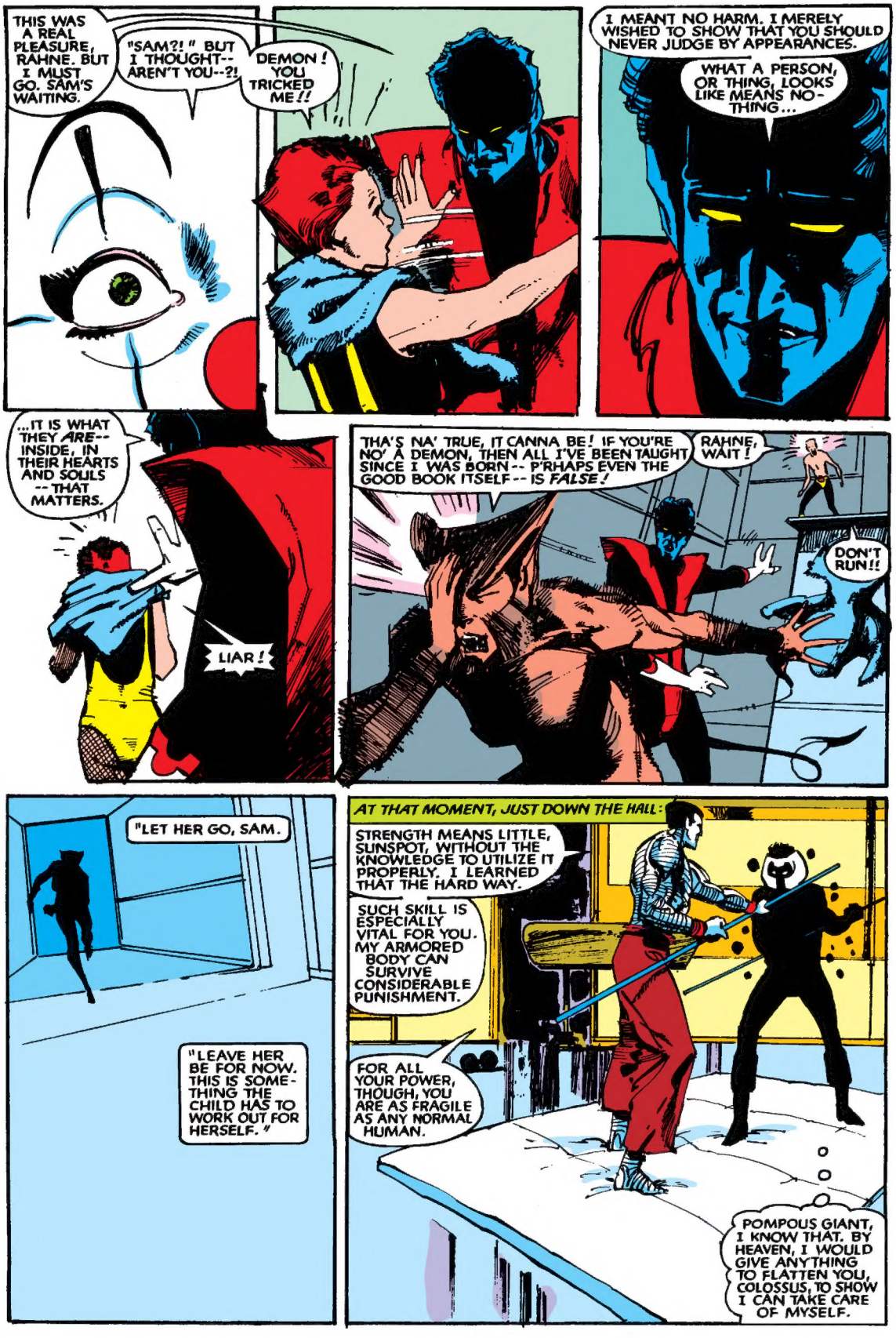

AH'M TH' OLDEST O' THE NEW MUTANTS. PROFESSOR XAVIER SAYS THE KIDS LOOK T' ME FOR LEADERSHIP-- T' SET AN EXAMPLE.
BUT EV'RYONE KEEPS GETTIN' BETTER AT USIN' THEIR POWERS, WHILE AH STAY PRETTY MUCH THE SAME.
WHAT IF AH'M AS GOOD AS AH'M EVER GONNA GET-- AH'M NOT IMPROVIN' B'CAUSE AH CAN'T?!
YOU'LL BE FINE, SAM. TRUST ME.

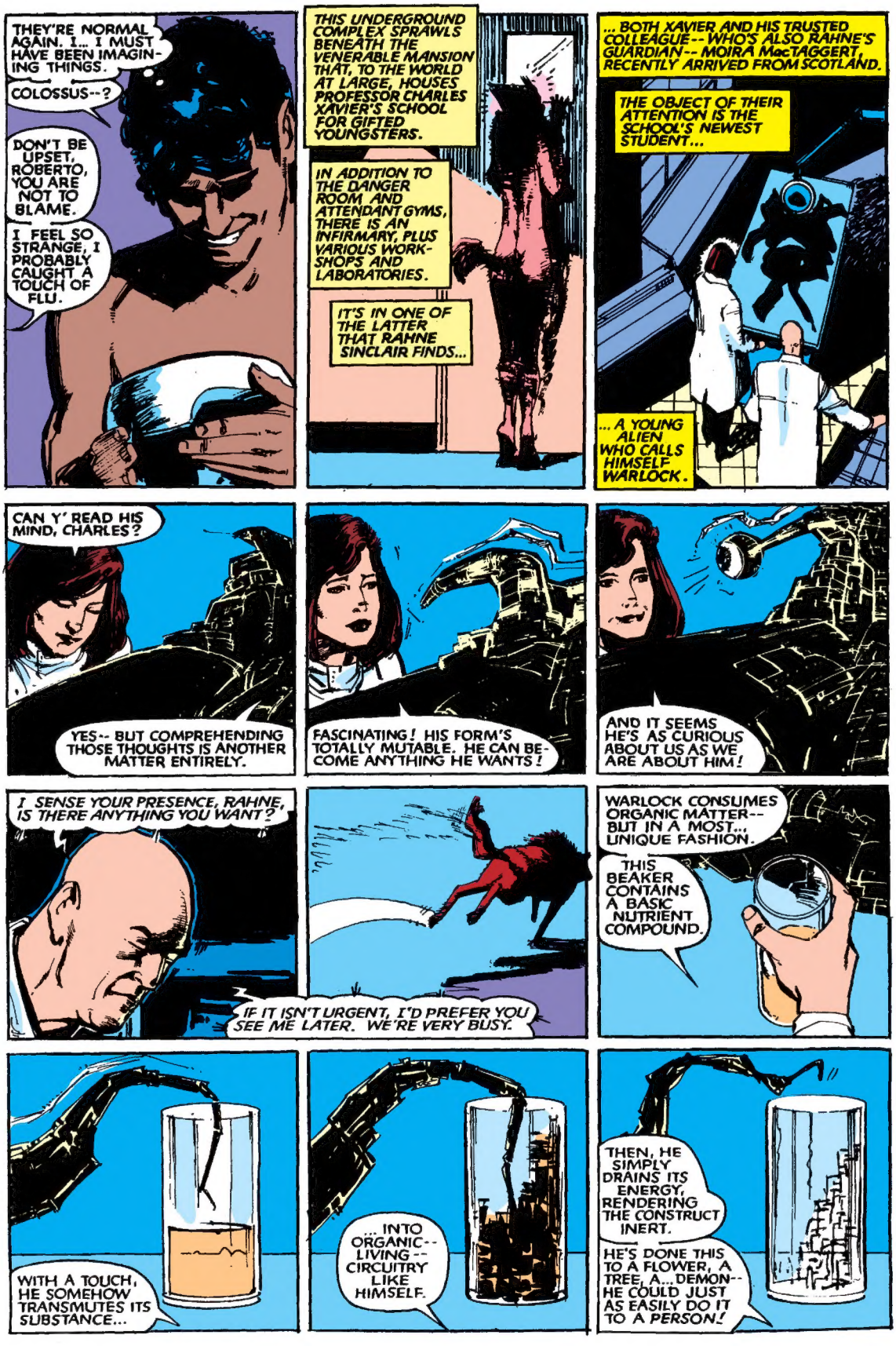

SAM!
HI, RAHNE!
JUST WHAT AH NEED, AN AUDIENCE.
I CAME T' WISH YOU LUCK!
LORD KNOWS AH COULD USE SOME.
OCH! I WISH IT WEREN'T THE DEMON TEACHING HIM. NIGHTCRAWLER FRIGHTENS ME SO. HOW CAN ANYTHING SO...EVIL LOOKING BE A FRIEND?
OKAY, FOLKS--
--HERE GOES NOTHIN'!
RAW FLAME SHEATHES SAM'S LOWER BODY--
--AN ONGOING BIOTHERMIC REACTION THAT PROPELS HIM INTO THE AIR LIKE HIS NAMESAKE...
... A RUNAWAY CANNONBALL, MAKING HIM CAPABLE OF SMASHING VIRTUALLY ANYTHING IN HIS PATH.
HIS BIG PROBLEM IS MANEUVERING. HE'S LEARNED TO MAKE SOFT LANDINGS...
...BUT TURNS-- ESPECIALLY THE SHARP, VIOLENT STUNTS REQUIRED IN A FIGHT--REMAIN BEYOND HIM.

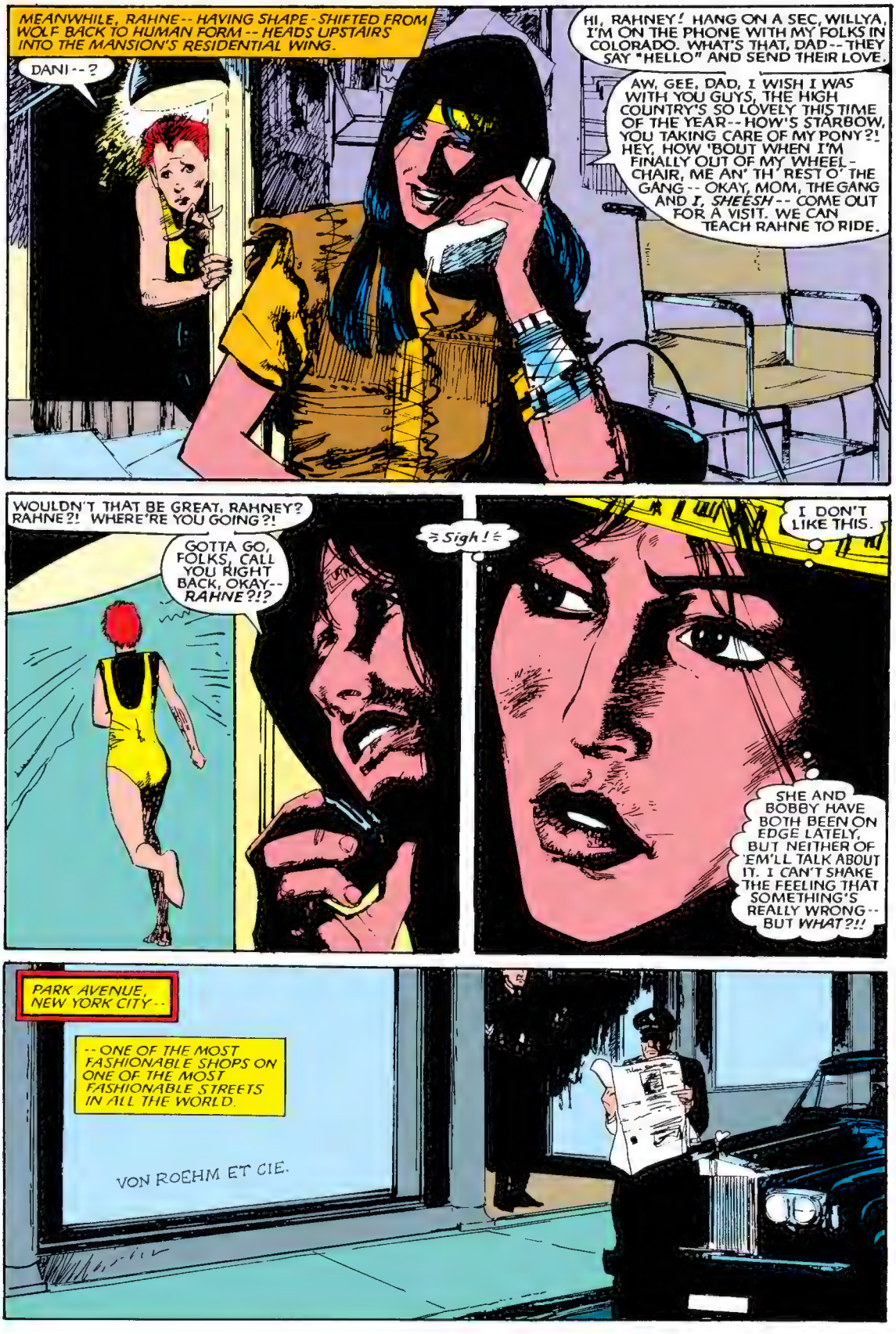
NOW FOR THE HAIRY PART.
AH CUT POWER -- KEEPIN' MOVIN' THROUGH MOMENTUM ALONE -- DO MY SOMERSAULT AN' TWIST LIKE NIGHTCRAWLER TAUGHT ME, AN' THEN LIGHT MY TORCH AN' BLAST OFF BACK THE WAY AH CAME.
PIECE O' CAKE.
SHOOT, IT AIN'T WORKIN', AH AIN'T ROLLIN' RIGHT!
HE LEFT IT TOO LONG, HE'S TOO CLOSE TO THE WALL AND AIMED THE WRONG WAY!
ONCE MORE, NIGHTCRAWLER TELEPORTS.
BAMF!
RELAX, SAM, I HAVE YOU.
AH BLEW IT, KURT!
SO?
DOWN YOU GO-- REMEMBER HOW TO FALL!
OF ALL THE LOUSY, DUMB, STUPID--!!!
IF NIGHTCRAWLER HADN'T CAUGHT ME, AH'D'VE SPLATTERED MYSELF BUT GOOD-- OR, IF AH'D BLASTED, PROB'LY WRECKED THAT WALL AN' COST THE PROF MILLIONS O' BUCKS IN REPAIR BILLS.
AH'M S'PRISED AH DIDN'T BREAK MAH NECK WHEN AH LANDED.
MUST BE LOSIN' MY TOUCH.


SORE?
NOTHIN'S BROKE.
I DIDN'T MEAN PHYSICALLY.
AH BLEW IT!
AS I DID, THE FIRST TIME I ATTEMPTED THAT MOVE!
NO KIDDIN'?
WHAT ELSE DID YOU EXPECT, PERFECTION RIGHT OFF THE BAT?!
YEAH, KIND'A.
NOTHING WORTH DOING COMES THAT EASY, HOTSHOT.
WE'LL START AGAIN. CLIMB UP THERE, I'LL JOIN YOU IN A MINUTE.
A DEVILISH GLEAM IN HIS EYES...
... NIGHT-CRAWLER PLAYS WITH HIS PORTABLE COMMAND MODULE.
INSTANTLY, THE VAST CHAMBER TRANSFORMS ITSELF INTO A CIRCUS TENT. SOME OF THE ELEMENTS ARE REAL.
OTHERS ARE ILLUSION -- HOLOGRAPHIC PROJECTIONS SO SOPHISTICATED THAT THEY'LL FOOL ANYONE.
M' CLOTHES--?!!
MAY I HAVE THIS WALTZ?
I... I'VE NEVER DANCED, I DINNA KNOW HOW.
THEN, MY DEAR...
... IT'S PAST TIME YOU LEARNED.
ENJOYING YOURSELF?
Oh, YES!
I'M GLAD.


THIS WAS A REAL PLEASURE, RAHNE. BUT I MUST GO. SAM'S WAITING.
"SAM?! " BUT I THOUGHT-- AREN'T YOU--?!
DEMON! YOU TRICKED ME!!
I MEANT NO HARM. I MERELY WISHED TO SHOW THAT YOU SHOULD NEVER JUDGE BY APPEARANCES.
WHAT A PERSON, OR THING, LOOKS LIKE MEANS NO-THING...
...IT IS WHAT THEY ARE-- INSIDE, IN THEIR HEARTS AND SOULS --THAT MATTERS.
LIAR!
THA'S NA' TRUE, IT CANNA BE! IF YOU'RE NO' A DEMON, THEN ALL I'VE BEEN TAUGHT SINCE I WAS BORN -- P'RHAPS EVEN THE GOOD BOOK ITSELF -- IS FALSE!
RAHNE, WAIT!
DON'T RUN!!
"LET HER GO, SAM.
"LEAVE HER BE FOR NOW. THIS IS SOME-THING THE CHILD HAS TO WORK OUT FOR HERSELF."
AT THAT MOMENT, JUST DOWN THE HALL:
STRENGTH MEANS LITTLE, SUNSPOT, WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE TO UTILIZE IT PROPERLY. I LEARNED THAT THE HARD WAY.
SUCH SKILL IS ESPECIALLY VITAL FOR YOU. MY ARMORED BODY CAN SURVIVE CONSIDERABLE PUNISHMENT.
FOR ALL YOUR POWER, THOUGH, YOU ARE AS FRAGILE AS ANY NORMAL HUMAN.
POMPOUS GIANT, I KNOW THAT. BY HEAVEN, I WOULD GIVE ANYTHING TO FLATTEN YOU, COLOSSUS, TO SHOW I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.

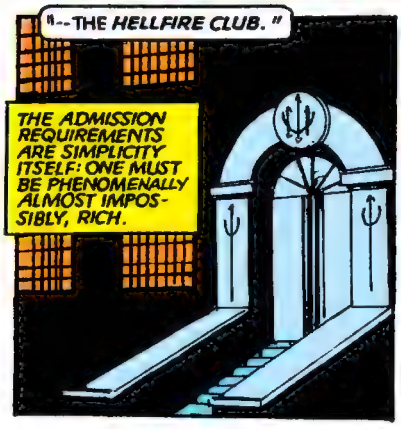
WHAT'S THAT--?!
RAHNE?!
PAY ATTENTION!
WHAP!
OWW!
IN COMBAT, A FOE WOULD NOT BE SO GENTLE.
COLOSSUS, THAT HURT!
NOBODY STRIKES A DaCOSTA, RUSSIAN--
--AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!
WHOUALLP!
I DON'T WANT TO PLAY WITH STICKS!
LET'S FIND OUT, ONCE AND FOR ALL, MAN TO MAN--
--WHICH OF US IS STRONGER!
IF YOU INSIST, LITTLE BOY. BUT YOU WILL FIND IT NO CONT--
AIEARRGH!
COLOSSUS, WHAT IS IT?! ARE YOU HURT?!! I DIDN'T MEAN--
--MADONNA, MY HANDS!?!


THEY'RE NORMAL AGAIN. I... I MUST HAVE BEEN IMAGINING THINGS.
COLOSSUS--?
DON'T BE UPSET, ROBERTO, YOU ARE NOT TO BLAME.
I FEEL SO STRANGE, I PROBABLY CAUGHT A TOUCH OF FLU.
THIS UNDERGROUND COMPLEX SPRAWLS BENEATH THE VENERABLE MANSION THAT, TO THE WORLD AT LARGE, HOUSES PROFESSOR CHARLES XAVIER'S SCHOOL FOR GIFTED YOUNGSTERS.
IN ADDITION TO THE DANGER ROOM AND ATTENDANT GYMS, THERE IS AN INFIRMARY, PLUS VARIOUS WORKSHOPS AND LABORATORIES.
IT'S IN ONE OF THE LATTER THAT RAHNE SINCLAIR FINDS...
... BOTH XAVIER AND HIS TRUSTED COLLEAGUE -- WHO'S ALSO RAHNE'S GUARDIAN -- MOIRA MacTAGGERT, RECENTLY ARRIVED FROM SCOTLAND.
THE OBJECT OF THEIR ATTENTION IS THE SCHOOL'S NEWEST STUDENT...
... A YOUNG ALIEN WHO CALLS HIMSELF WARLOCK.
CAN Y' READ HIS MIND, CHARLES?
YES -- BUT COMPREHENDING THOSE THOUGHTS IS ANOTHER MATTER ENTIRELY.
FASCINATING! HIS FORM'S TOTALLY MUTABLE. HE CAN BECOME ANYTHING HE WANTS!
AND IT SEEMS HE'S AS CURIOUS ABOUT US AS WE ARE ABOUT HIM!
I SENSE YOUR PRESENCE, RAHNE, IS THERE ANYTHING YOU WANT?
IF IT ISN'T URGENT, I'D PREFER YOU SEE ME LATER. WE'RE VERY BUSY.
WARLOCK CONSUMES ORGANIC MATTER -- BUT IN A MOST... UNIQUE FASHION.
THIS BEAKER CONTAINS A BASIC NUTRIENT COMPOUND.
WITH A TOUCH, HE SOMEHOW TRANSMUTES ITS SUBSTANCE...
... INTO ORGANIC -- LIVING -- CIRCUITRY LIKE HIMSELF.
THEN, HE SIMPLY DRAINS ITS ENERGY, RENDERING THE CONSTRUCT INERT.
HE'S DONE THIS TO A FLOWER, A TREE, A... DEMON -- HE COULD JUST AS EASILY DO IT TO A PERSON!


MEANWHILE, RAHNE -- HAVING SHAPE-SHIFTED FROM WOLF BACK TO HUMAN FORM -- HEADS UPSTAIRS INTO THE MANSION'S RESIDENTIAL WING.
DANI--?
HI, RAHNEY! HANG ON A SEC, WILLYA, I'M ON THE PHONE WITH MY FOLKS IN COLORADO. WHAT'S THAT, DAD -- THEY SAY "HELLO" AND SEND THEIR LOVE.
AW, GEE, DAD, I WISH I WAS WITH YOU GUYS, THE HIGH COUNTRY'S SO LOVELY THIS TIME OF THE YEAR -- HOW'S STARBOW, YOU TAKING CARE OF MY PONY?! HEY, HOW 'BOUT WHEN I'M FINALLY OUT OF MY WHEEL-CHAIR, ME AN' TH' REST O' THE GANG -- OKAY, MOM, THE GANG AND I, SHEESH -- COME OUT FOR A VISIT. WE CAN TEACH RAHNE TO RIDE.
WOULDN'T THAT BE GREAT, RAHNEY? RAHNE?! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?!
GOTTA GO, FOLKS, CALL YOU RIGHT BACK, OKAY -- RAHNE?!?
=Sigh!=
I DON'T LIKE THIS.
SHE AND BOBBY HAVE BOTH BEEN ON EDGE LATELY, BUT NEITHER OF 'EM'LL TALK ABOUT IT. I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING THAT SOMETHING'S REALLY WRONG -- BUT WHAT?!!
PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK CITY --
-- ONE OF THE MOST FASHIONABLE SHOPS ON ONE OF THE MOST FASHIONABLE STREETS IN ALL THE WORLD.
VON ROEHM ET CIE.

HERR FRIEDRICH VON ROEHM?
I AM HE, MADAME, THE PROPRIETER OF THIS ESTABLISHMENT.
DISMISS YOUR STAFF FOR THE REST OF THE DAY.
I WISH TO SPEAK WITH YOU IN PRIVATE.
Closed
AND WHO ARE YOU, TO GIVE ME ORDERS?! GET OUT, WOMAN, BEFORE I HAVE YOU ARRESTED!
SINCE YOU SPEAK FROM IGNORANCE, I WILL FORGIVE YOUR IMPERTINENCE. THIS TIME.
I WOULD LIKE THIS GEM APPRAISED.
IT IS UNIQUE. LEGEND SAYS...
...WHEN ONE LOOKS AT IT A CERTAIN WAY, IN A CERTAIN LIGHT...
"... A FACE CAN BE SEEN."
Gasp!
BY THE SACRED FIRE-- SELENE!!
AFTER TWO MILLENNIA, OUR GODDESS HAS RETURNED!

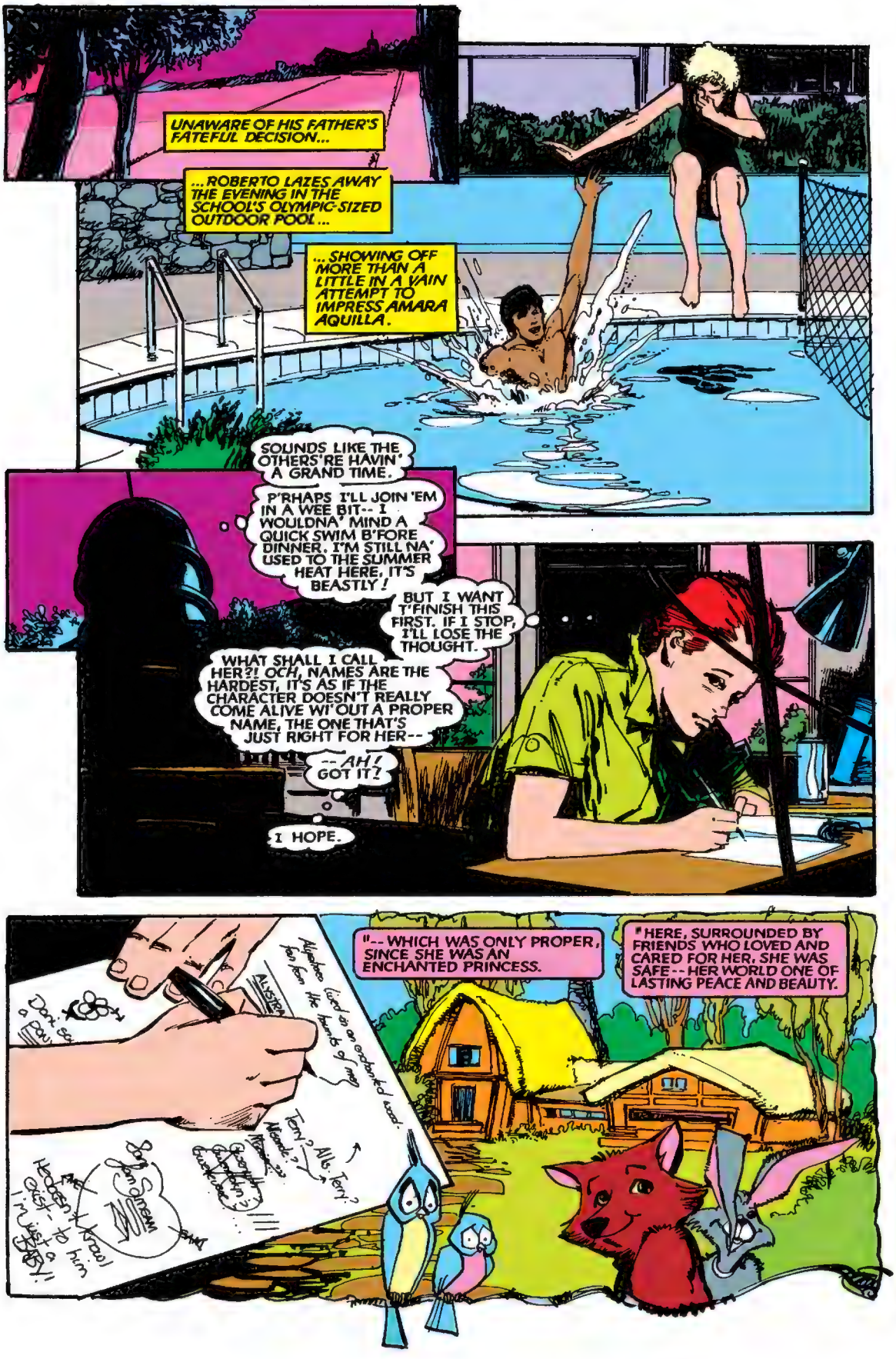
AS YOUR HIGH PRIEST, BLESSED ONE, I EXIST TO SERVE. YOUR SLIGHTEST WISH IS MY COMMAND.
SUCH LOYALTY, von ROEHM, IS MOST WELCOME.
I REQUIRE A RESIDENCE, ONE THAT WILL ALLOW ME BOTH TO EXERCISE MY POWERS IN SAFETY AND BRING CERTAIN... PLANS TO THEIR FRUITION--PREFERABLY ONE WHICH PROVIDES ACCESS TO WEALTH AND INFLUENCE.
I BELIEVE I HAVE THE IDEAL SOLUTION. IT IS CALLED...

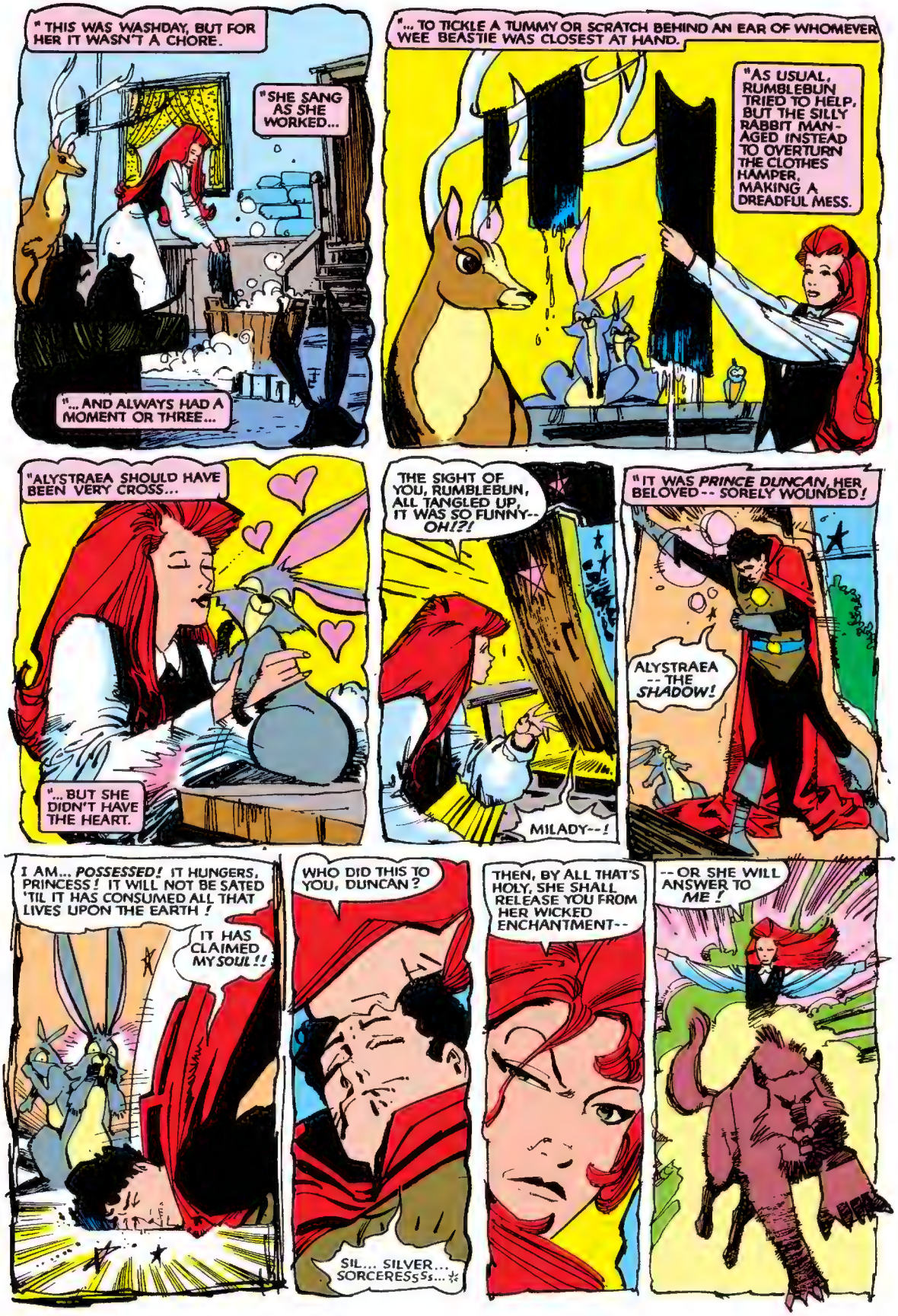

"--THE HELLFIRE CLUB."
THE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS ARE SIMPLICITY ITSELF: ONE MUST BE PHENOMENALLY ALMOST IMPOSSIBLY, RICH.

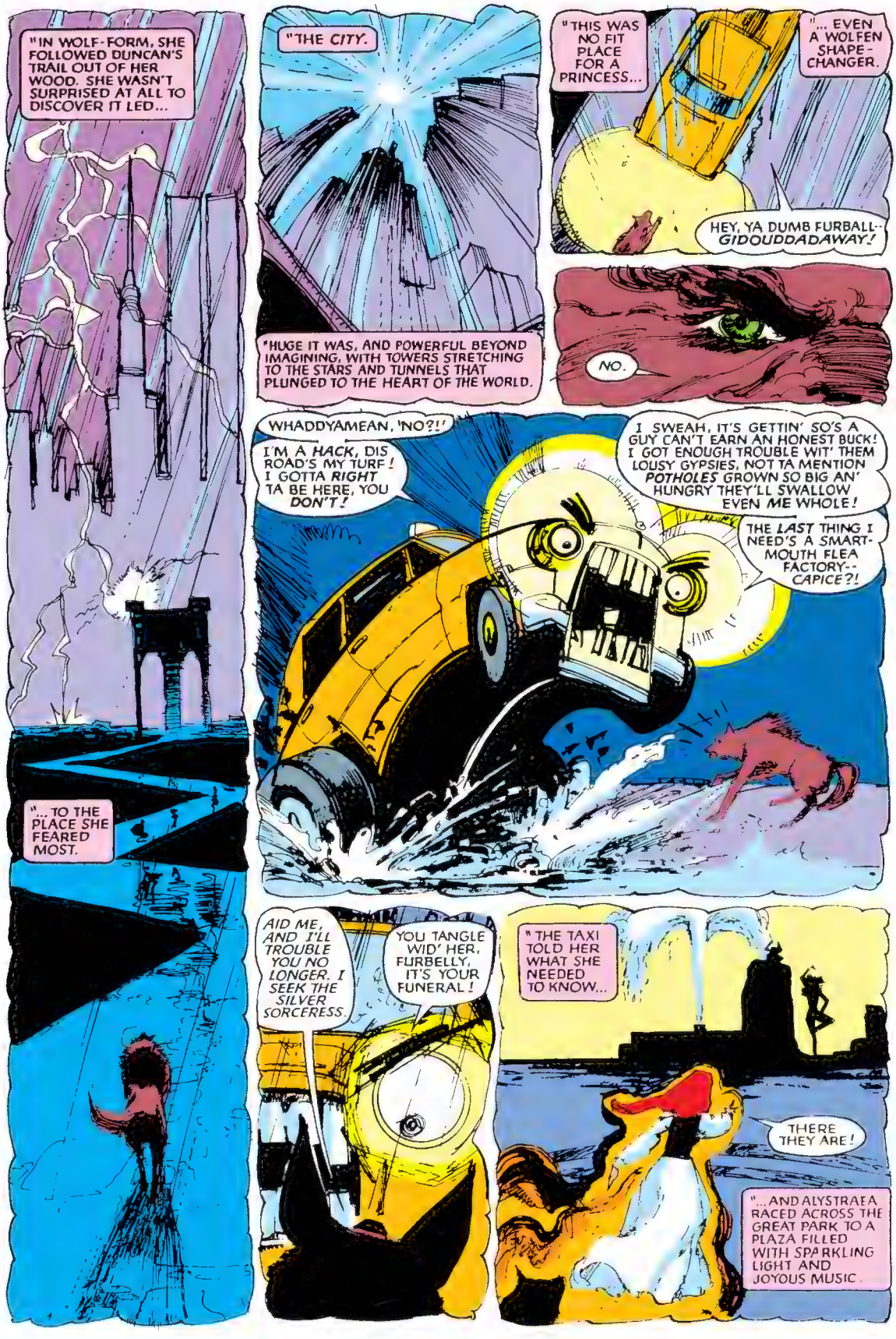
A VERY FEW, VERY SELECT MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE SECRET INNER CIRCLE, HEADED BY THE CLUB'S CHAIRMAN, BILLIONAIRE INDUSTRIALIST SEBASTIAN SHAW.
THE LATEST SUCH IS SUNSPOT'S FATHER, EMMANUEL DaCOSTA.
I FEEL FOOLISH DRESSED LIKE THIS, SEBASTIAN.
DON'T, MY FRIEND.

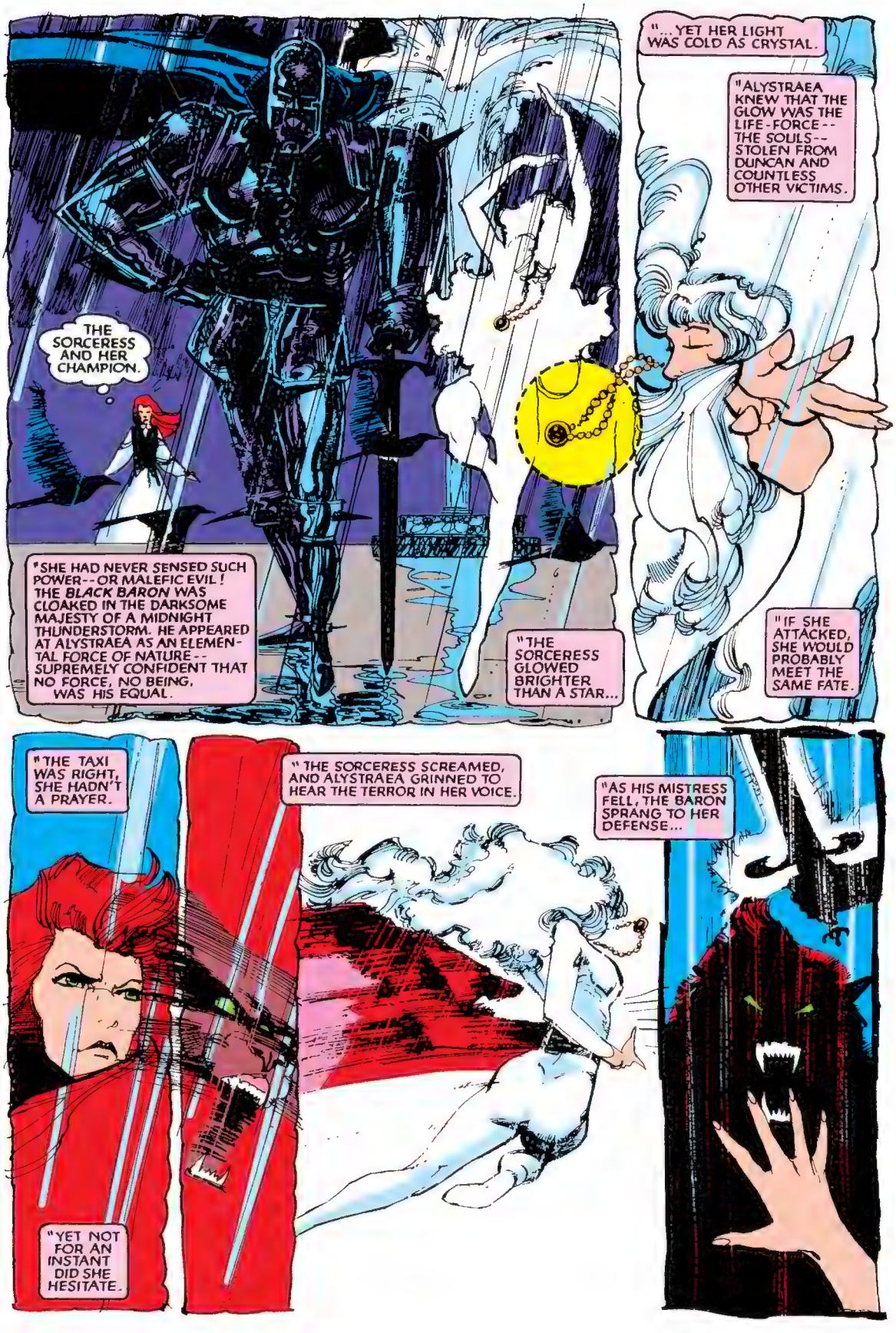
OUR COSTUMES SIGNIFY OUR ABANDONMENT OF THE MODERN AGE--WITH ITS CLOYING ETHICS AND BOURGEOIS MERCANTILE PRINCIPLES, WHERE SOCIETY IS BENT ON PROTECTING PEOPLE FROM THEMSELVES AT ANY COST--
--FOR A FAR SIMPLER ONE...

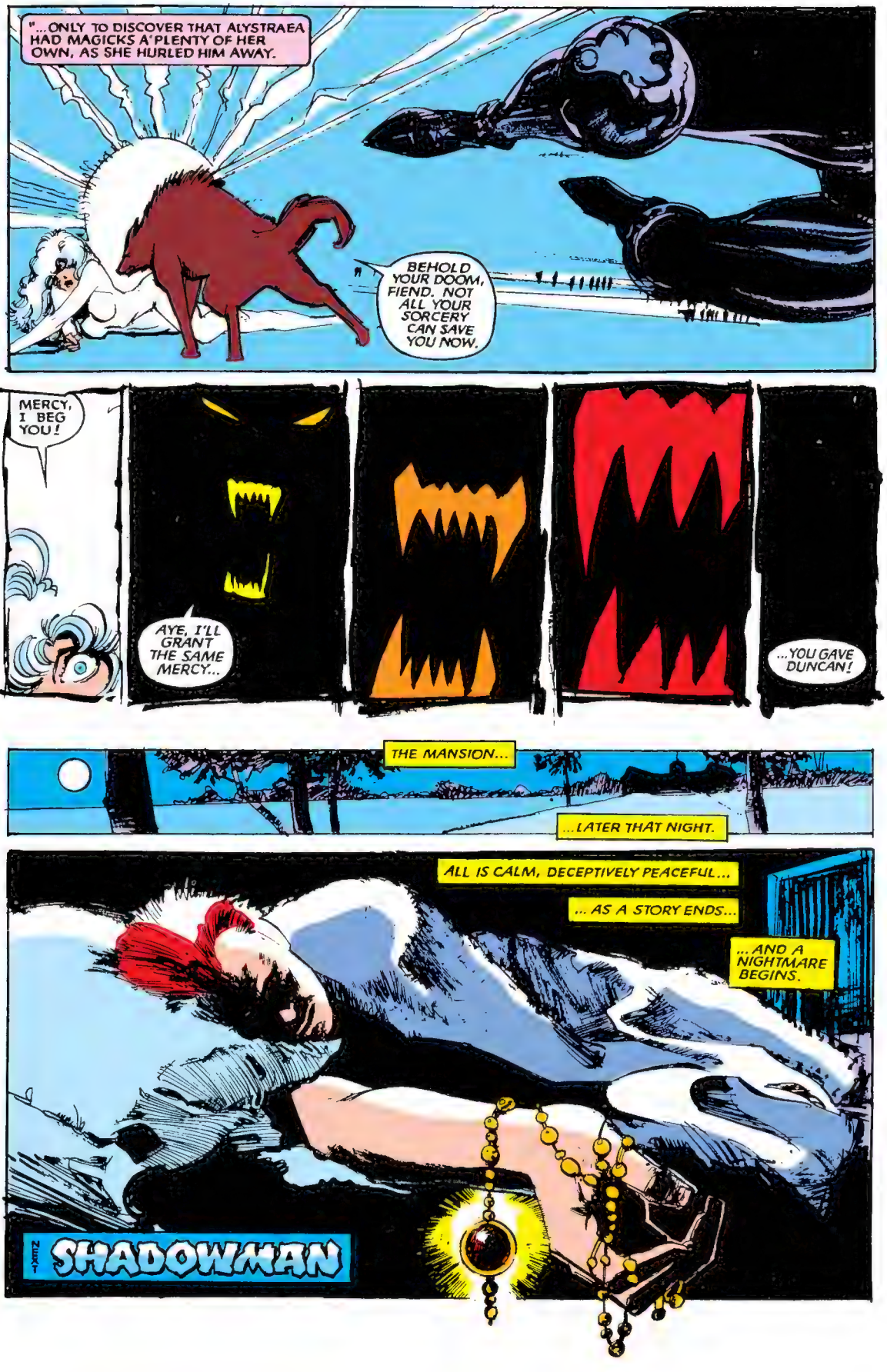
...WHERE A MAN WAS LIMITED SOLELY BY THE SCOPE OF HIS IMAGINATION, HIS AMBITION, HIS DARING, AND BOUND ONLY BY HIS OWN PERSONAL SENSE OF HONOR.
SOCIETY--THE COMMON HERD--MEANS NOTHING, THE INDIVIDUAL ALL.
THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE FOR SECOND THOUGHTS, EMMANUEL. ONCE YOU CROSS THIS RUBICON, YOU CAN NEVER TURN BACK.
I'M READY.
SPLENDID. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR INITIATION.


UNAWARE OF HIS FATHER'S FATEFUL DECISION...
...ROBERTO LAZES AWAY THE EVENING IN THE SCHOOL'S OLYMPIC-SIZED OUTDOOR POOL...
...SHOWING OFF MORE THAN A LITTLE IN A VAIN ATTEMPT TO IMPRESS AMARA AQUILLA.
SOUNDS LIKE THE OTHERS'RE HAVIN' A GRAND TIME.
P'RHAPS I'LL JOIN 'EM IN A WEE BIT-- I WOULDNA' MIND A QUICK SWIM B'FORE DINNER. I'M STILL NA' USED TO THE SUMMER HEAT HERE, IT'S BEASTLY!
BUT I WANT T'FINISH THIS FIRST. IF I STOP, I'LL LOSE THE THOUGHT.
WHAT SHALL I CALL HER?! OCH, NAMES ARE THE HARDEST, IT'S AS IF THE CHARACTER DOESN'T REALLY COME ALIVE WI' OUT A PROPER NAME, THE ONE THAT'S JUST RIGHT FOR HER--
--AH! GOT IT?
I HOPE.
Alyshaea lived in an enchanted wood.
Tom? Alls Terry?
"-- WHICH WAS ONLY PROPER, SINCE SHE WAS AN ENCHANTED PRINCESS.
"HERE, SURROUNDED BY FRIENDS WHO LOVED AND CARED FOR HER, SHE WAS SAFE-- HER WORLD ONE OF LASTING PEACE AND BEAUTY.


"THIS WAS WASHDAY, BUT FOR HER IT WASN'T A CHORE.
"SHE SANG AS SHE WORKED...
"... AND ALWAYS HAD A MOMENT OR THREE...
"... TO TICKLE A TUMMY OR SCRATCH BEHIND AN EAR OF WHOMEVER WEE BEASTIE WAS CLOSEST AT HAND.
"AS USUAL, RUMBLEBUN TRIED TO HELP, BUT THE SILLY RABBIT MANAGED INSTEAD TO OVERTURN THE CLOTHES HAMPER, MAKING A DREADFUL MESS.
"ALYSTRAEA SHOULD HAVE BEEN VERY CROSS...
"... BUT SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE HEART.
THE SIGHT OF YOU, RUMBLEBUN, ALL TANGLED UP, IT WAS SO FUNNY-- OH!?!
MILADY--!
"IT WAS PRINCE DUNCAN, HER BELOVED-- SORELY WOUNDED!
ALYSTRAEA -- THE SHADOW!
I AM... POSSESSED! IT HUNGERS, PRINCESS! IT WILL NOT BE SATED 'TIL IT HAS CONSUMED ALL THAT LIVES UPON THE EARTH!
IT HAS CLAIMED MY SOUL!!
WHO DID THIS TO YOU, DUNCAN?
SIL... SILVER... SORCERESSs...
THEN, BY ALL THAT'S HOLY, SHE SHALL RELEASE YOU FROM HER WICKED ENCHANTMENT--
-- OR SHE WILL ANSWER TO ME!


"IN WOLF-FORM, SHE FOLLOWED DUNCAN'S TRAIL OUT OF HER WOOD. SHE WASN'T SURPRISED AT ALL TO DISCOVER IT LED...
"... TO THE PLACE SHE FEARED MOST.
"THE CITY.
"HUGE IT WAS, AND POWERFUL BEYOND IMAGINING, WITH TOWERS STRETCHING TO THE STARS AND TUNNELS THAT PLUNGED TO THE HEART OF THE WORLD.
"THIS WAS NO FIT PLACE FOR A PRINCESS...
"... EVEN A WOLFEN SHAPE-CHANGER.
HEY, YA DUMB FURBALL-- GIDOUDDADAWAY!
NO.
WHADDYAMEAN, 'NO?!'
I'M A HACK, DIS ROAD'S MY TURF! I GOTTA RIGHT TA BE HERE, YOU DON'T!
I SWEAH, IT'S GETTIN' SO'S A GUY CAN'T EARN AN HONEST BUCK! I GOT ENOUGH TROUBLE WIT' THEM LOUSY GYPSIES, NOT TA MENTION POTHOLES GROWN SO BIG AN' HUNGRY THEY'LL SWALLOW EVEN ME WHOLE!
THE LAST THING I NEED'S A SMART-MOUTH FLEA FACTORY-- CAPICE?!
AID ME, AND I'LL TROUBLE YOU NO LONGER. I SEEK THE SILVER SORCERESS.
YOU TANGLE WID' HER, FURBELLY, IT'S YOUR FUNERAL!
"THE TAXI TOLD HER WHAT SHE NEEDED TO KNOW...
THERE THEY ARE!
"... AND ALYSTRAEA RACED ACROSS THE GREAT PARK TO A PLAZA FILLED WITH SPARKLING LIGHT AND JOYOUS MUSIC.


THE SORCERESS AND HER CHAMPION.
"SHE HAD NEVER SENSED SUCH POWER--OR MALEFIC EVIL! THE BLACK BARON WAS CLOAKED IN THE DARKSOME MAJESTY OF A MIDNIGHT THUNDERSTORM. HE APPEARED AT ALYSTRAEA AS AN ELEMENTAL FORCE OF NATURE--SUPREMELY CONFIDENT THAT NO FORCE, NO BEING, WAS HIS EQUAL.
"THE SORCERESS GLOWED BRIGHTER THAN A STAR...
"...YET HER LIGHT WAS COLD AS CRYSTAL.
"ALYSTRAEA KNEW THAT THE GLOW WAS THE LIFE-FORCE--THE SOULS--STOLEN FROM DUNCAN AND COUNTLESS OTHER VICTIMS.
"IF SHE ATTACKED, SHE WOULD PROBABLY MEET THE SAME FATE.
"THE TAXI WAS RIGHT, SHE HADN'T A PRAYER.
"YET NOT FOR AN INSTANT DID SHE HESITATE.
" THE SORCERESS SCREAMED, AND ALYSTRAEA GRINNED TO HEAR THE TERROR IN HER VOICE.
"AS HIS MISTRESS FELL, THE BARON SPRANG TO HER DEFENSE...


"...ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT ALYSTRAEA HAD MAGICKS A'PLENTY OF HER OWN, AS SHE HURLED HIM AWAY.
BEHOLD YOUR DOOM, FIEND. NOT ALL YOUR SORCERY CAN SAVE YOU NOW.
MERCY, I BEG YOU!
AYE, I'LL GRANT THE SAME MERCY...
...YOU GAVE DUNCAN!
THE MANSION...
...LATER THAT NIGHT.
ALL IS CALM, DECEPTIVELY PEACEFUL...
... AS A STORY ENDS...
...AND A NIGHTMARE BEGINS.
SHADOWMAN

FROM THE PRIVATE JOURNALS OF CHARLES XAVIER
RAHNE SINCLAIR --
WOLFSBANE
A SPECIFIC METAMORPH, ABLE TO TRANSFORM FROM HUMAN TO WOLF-- WITH A TRANSITIONAL INCARNATION ROUGHLY HALFWAY BETWEEN THE TWO.
SHE WAS THE FIRST NEW MUTANT. INDEED, IT WAS IN GREAT MEASURE BECAUSE OF HER THAT I DECIDED TO GATHER THIS CLASS OF NOVICE STUDENTS.
BY FAR THE YOUNGEST -- IN TEMPERMENT, IF NOT IN ACTUAL AGE-- SHE IS AN ORPHAN, WHOSE UNUSUALLY STRICT AND CONSERVATIVE UPBRINGING HAS LEFT HER PAINFULLY SHY AND INSECURE. IT HASN'T BEEN EASY FOR HER TO ADJUST, NOT ONLY TO THE MANIFESTATION OF HER MUTANT ABILITIES, BUT AS WELL TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH SHE NOW LIVES.
SHE HAS SO MUCH POTENTIAL-- BOTH AS A MUTANT AND A PERSON-- I MUST FIND A WAY TO HELP HER REALIZE IT.
MORE AND MORE THESE DAYS, HOWEVER, SHE TAKES REFUGE IN HER LUPINE FORM. THE WORLD IS MUCH SIMPLER TO HER THEN. THERE ARE NO AMBIGUITIES OR CONFUSION. SHE IS STARTING TO LIKE THAT LIFE MORE THAN BEING HUMAN.

Bullpen Bulletins

On Monday, June 4, 1984, Sol Brodsky passed away.

Most of you probably never heard of him, or, if you did, very likely you didn't pay much attention. Sol didn't spend a lot of effort trying to get headlines, or fighting to get his name bigger in the credits. He was too busy getting things *done*, invariably on time and under budget, so that someone else could get the glory.

Typically, at this point in one of these things, the writer launches into a long and thoroughly boring list of the many behind-the-scenes contributions of the deceased. Forget it. There isn't enough room here, or in a thousand of these columns. Besides, I think Sol would want this short and sweet (and on time, and under budget). Suffice it to say, therefore, that he was one of the all-time biggies in this industry. Sure, he was Stan Lee's right hand during the early years here, but he was no mere backstage helper-outer / man-Friday, you understand. He was a *force*. A shaper. A builder.

He did a lot to help get us — the comics biz — this far.

Now he's gone. We'll remember him, of course, because of what he did — but more, because of the way he did it. He was a fine, fine man.

Jim Shooter

SOL BRODSKY
1923-1984
Production Manager
Vice-President, Operations
Vice-President, Special Projects

THE HYPE BOX

ICEMAN (Limited Series) #1 — He was a charter member of the X-Men, and he currently belongs to the New Defenders. But in this four-issue limited series, he's on his own! And even with all his experience, he finds that being a super hero still isn't all that easy! Who are White Light and The Idiot, and why are they causing all that trouble? Will Iceman finally get a date with the beautiful and mysterious Margo? The answers to these questions and more are brought to you by writer J.M. DEMATTEIS, penciler ALAN KUPPERBERG, and inker MIKE GUSTOVICH.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #1 — This thrilling four-issue limited series follows right on the heels of the incredible events presented in the Dazzler Graphic Novel! Dazzler's powers are out of control! Anti-mutant hysteria is sweeping the country! Will the Beast be able to help her before something horrible happens? This impossible love story is written by ANN NOCENTI, penciled by DON PERLIN, and inked by KIM DEMULDER.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #18 — Face front, true believers! This amazing annual features the return of "The Man" readers around the world have been clamoring for! That's right, SMILING STAN LEE is back, scripting the tale of one of the most eventful days in Spidey's life! And when Daily Bugle publisher J. Jonah Jameson gets married, you just know that this will be a wedding that no one will ever forget! Read "The Scorpion Takes a Bride!" Plot by TOM DEFALCO. Breakdowns by RON FRENZ. Finishes by BOB LAYTON and JACKSON "BUTCH" GUICE. Script by STAN LEE! Excelsior!

CRASH RYAN (Limited Series) #1 — A new four-issue limited series with full process color from EPIC COMICS! Crash Ryan is introduced to the members of the United Airmen, who are battling the menace of The Doom! They use ultra-modern airships and futuristic technology in an age that never was but might have been. This unusual combination of pulp-fiction adventure and high-tech intrigue is brought to you by writer / artist RON HARRIS.

TIMESPIRITS #1 — A young Indian brave meets a time-travelling Shaman and learns of magic, monsters, and becoming a Man! Unique, tongue-in-cheek humor is combined with shrewd insight into human nature in this sideways adventure (who says you can only travel *straight* through time?). This EPIC COMICS series is by STEVEN PERRY, writer, and TOM YEATES, artist.

- ☐ **THE THING #18**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #213**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #22**
- ☐ **MUPPETS TAKE MANHATTAN (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS (Limited Series) #8**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **MACHINE MAN (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **ICEMAN (Limited Series) #1** — The former X-Man gets his own series! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **BUCKEROO BANZAI (Limited Series) #1** — Beginning Marvel's adaptation of the science fiction adventure movie!
- ☐ **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (Limited Series) #1** — A mutant romance as only Marvel could do it! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #18** — Stan (the Man) Lee is back! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #259**
- ☐ **INDIANA JONES #24**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #5**
- ☐ **MICRONAUTS #3**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #17**
- ☐ **DR. STRANGE #68**
- ☐ **KULL THE CONQUEROR #7**
- ☐ **DEFENDERS #138**
- ☐ **BLACK PANTHER (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #300** — It's a battle to the death with the Red Skull!
- ☐ **ROM ANNUAL #3**
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #302**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #165**
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #170** — Reprinting "If This Be My Destiny" by STAN LEE and STEVE DITKO, from *Amazing Spider-Man #31*.
- ☐ **X-MEN #188**
- ☐ **ROM #61**
- ☐ **POWER MAN / IRON FIST #112**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #30**
- ☐ **SHEENA OF THE JUNGLE (Limited Series) #1** — Featuring the Marvel adaptation of the jungle queen's own movie!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #250** — The East Coast and West Coast Avengers join forces in this double-sized issue!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #273**
- ☐ **MARVEL TEAM-UP #148** — Featuring *Spider-Man* and the *Mighty Thor*.
- ☐ **IRON MAN #189**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #97**
- ☐ **THE LAST STARFIGHTER (Limited Series) #3**
- ☐ **STAR WARS #90**
- ☐ **SUB-MARINER (Limited Series) #4**
- ☐ **THOR #350** — The forger of the Sword of Doom arrives on Earth! Can even the mighty Thor stop him?
- ☐ **STARRIORS (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **CONAN ANNUAL #9**
- ☐ **X-MEN ANNUAL #8**
- ☐ **DR. WHO #3**

MARVEL MAGAZINES

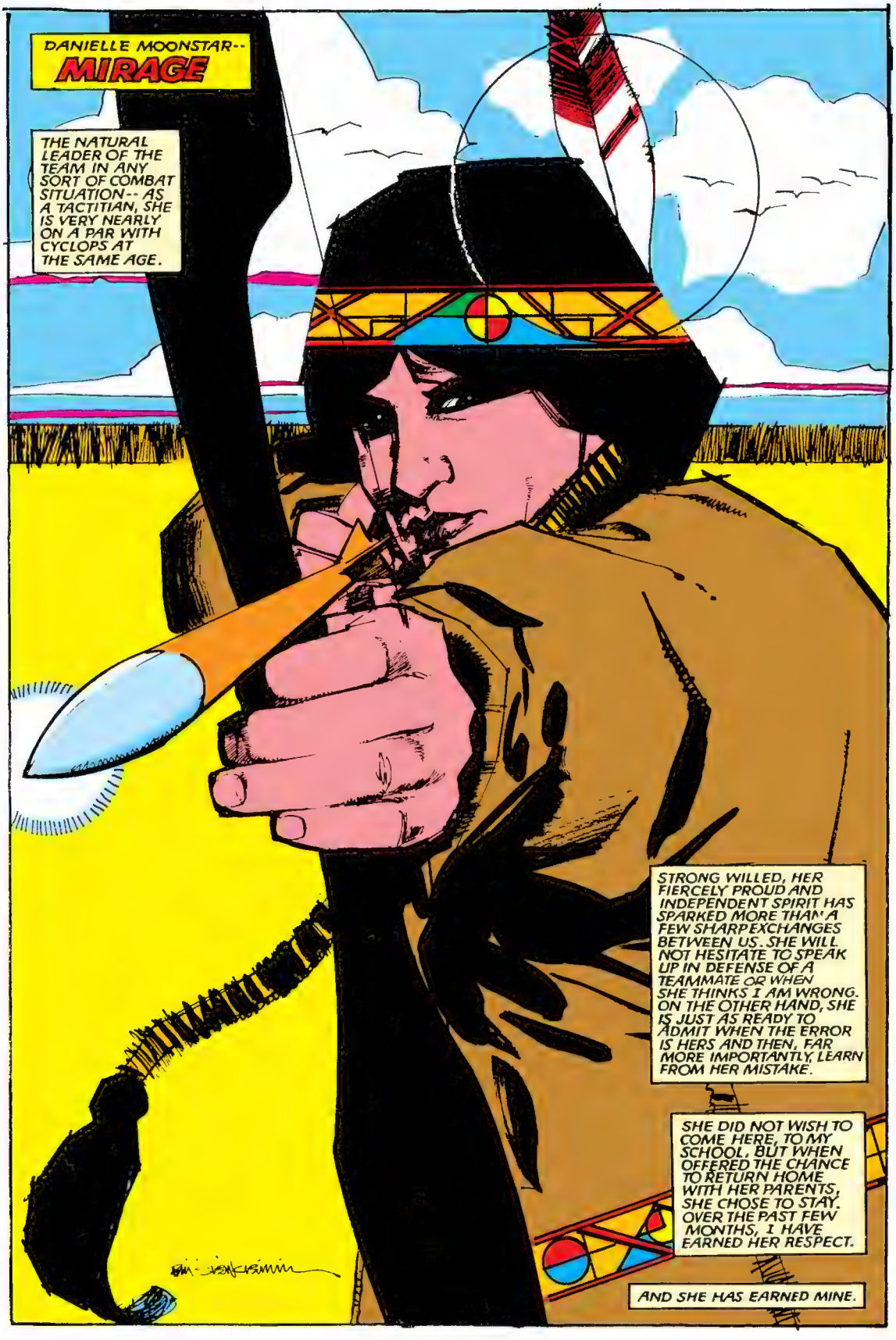
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #106**
- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #21**

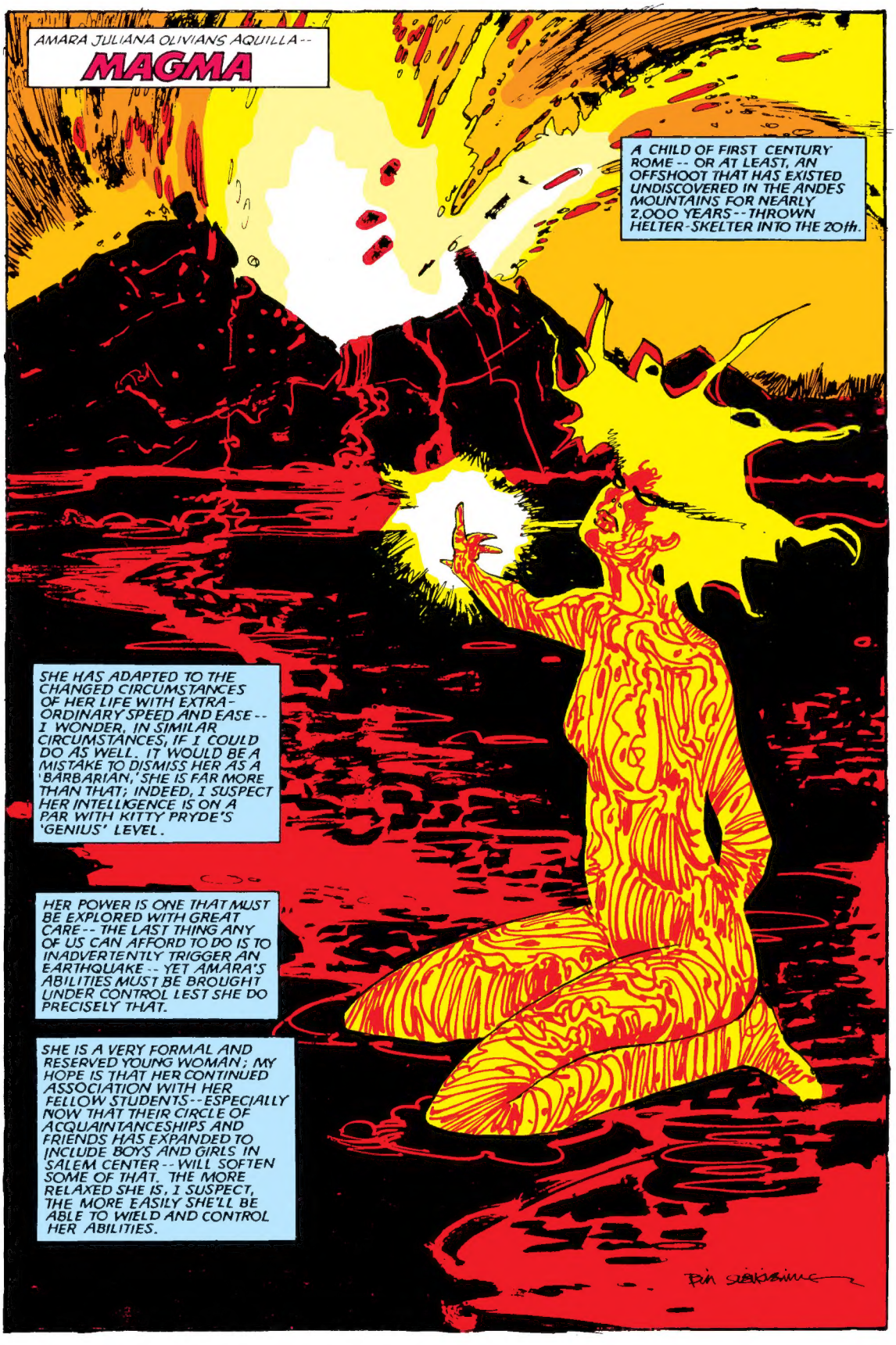
EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **DREADSTAR #14**
- ☐ **CRASH RYAN #1** — Adventure in a history that might have been! See Hype Box.
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #4**
- ☐ **SIX FROM SIRIUS #4**
- ☐ **TIME SPIRITS #1** — A different way to travel through time! See Hype Box.

ASSORTED GOODIES

- ☐ **SUPERSPECIAL #35: CONAN THE DESTROYER** — The complete Marvel adaptation of the second Conan movie! Written by MICHAEL FLEISHER. Art by JOHN BUSCEMA.


DANIELLE MOONSTAR--
MIRAGE
THE NATURAL LEADER OF THE TEAM IN ANY SORT OF COMBAT SITUATION-- AS A TACTITIAN, SHE IS VERY NEARLY ON A PAR WITH CYCLOPS AT THE SAME AGE.
STRONG WILLED, HER FIERCELY PROUD AND INDEPENDENT SPIRIT HAS SPARKED MORE THAN A FEW SHARP EXCHANGES BETWEEN US. SHE WILL NOT HESITATE TO SPEAK UP IN DEFENSE OF A TEAMMATE OR WHEN SHE THINKS I AM WRONG. ON THE OTHER HAND, SHE IS JUST AS READY TO ADMIT WHEN THE ERROR IS HERS AND THEN, FAR MORE IMPORTANTLY, LEARN FROM HER MISTAKE.
SHE DID NOT WISH TO COME HERE, TO MY SCHOOL, BUT WHEN OFFERED THE CHANCE TO RETURN HOME WITH HER PARENTS, SHE CHOSE TO STAY. OVER THE PAST FEW MONTHS, I HAVE EARNED HER RESPECT.
AND SHE HAS EARNED MINE.


AMARA JULIANA OLIVIANS AQUILLA--
MAGMA
A CHILD OF FIRST CENTURY ROME -- OR AT LEAST, AN OFFSHOOT THAT HAS EXISTED UNDISCOVERED IN THE ANDES MOUNTAINS FOR NEARLY 2,000 YEARS--THROWN HELTER-SKELTER INTO THE 20th.
SHE HAS ADAPTED TO THE CHANGED CIRCUMSTANCES OF HER LIFE WITH EXTRA-ORDINARY SPEED AND EASE--I WONDER, IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES, IF I COULD DO AS WELL. IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO DISMISS HER AS A 'BARBARIAN,' SHE IS FAR MORE THAN THAT; INDEED, I SUSPECT HER INTELLIGENCE IS ON A PAR WITH KITTY PRYDE'S 'GENIUS' LEVEL.
HER POWER IS ONE THAT MUST BE EXPLORED WITH GREAT CARE--THE LAST THING ANY OF US CAN AFFORD TO DO IS TO INADVERTENTLY TRIGGER AN EARTHQUAKE--YET AMARA'S ABILITIES MUST BE BROUGHT UNDER CONTROL LEST SHE DO PRECISELY THAT.
SHE IS A VERY FORMAL AND RESERVED YOUNG WOMAN; MY HOPE IS THAT HER CONTINUED ASSOCIATION WITH HER FELLOW STUDENTS--ESPECIALLY NOW THAT THEIR CIRCLE OF ACQUAINTANCESHIPS AND FRIENDS HAS EXPANDED TO INCLUDE BOYS AND GIRLS IN SALEM CENTER--WILL SOFTEN SOME OF THAT. THE MORE RELAXED SHE IS, I SUSPECT, THE MORE EASILY SHE'LL BE ABLE TO WIELD AND CONTROL HER ABILITIES.
Rin Sivkovich

REPORT CARD

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

ANN NOCENTI
EDITOR
PETER SANDERSON
ASSISTANT EDITOR

We like to get your letters. But if you don't want your full address published, please tell us.

Dear Marvel,

I've read Marvel avidly since 1966 (I'm 28 now), and we've been through a lot of changes together. Last Sunday, my wife of 7 years (that's how long we've been married!) had our first child, a girl, and I already had a name for her, thanks to you folks. Our surname is purely Scottish in origin, so what we were looking for was a unique authentic Scottish first name. Since I'm a New Mutants fan, the choice was easy: our daughter is Rahne Forbes. Thanks for the help, and as always, Make Mine Marvel!

Scott, Rosemary and Rahne Forbes
Route #5, Box 160
Baraboo, Wisconsin 53913

PS — I don't *think* she's a mutant, although she's certainly got a power over all of us!

And us, too, Scott, though we haven't met her. What can we say — other than that we're pleased as punch, flattered, proud, humble, a little silly, and a lot more hopelessly head over heels in love!

Dear Marvel:

I'm glad finally to see that the New Mutants are out of trouble in Nova Roma (NM #'s 11 & 12). Even though I think the comic is great, please try to get them into more interesting tragedies.

David Hancock
Box 11163
Cleveland, OH 44111

We'll, uh, do our best, David.

Dear Mutant-Makers:

I want to know if Lilandra, Professor X, and the New Mutants are Christian. I know Rahne is, since it said so in NEW MUTANTS #12, but what about the others?

Peter Bishop
Box 57
Readlyn, Iowa 50668

Lilandra is not, Peter. Professor Xavier has never volunteered such information and we deemed it impolite to ask. Rahne is — as you said — and so is Sam Guthrie. Roberto DaCosta and Xi'an Coy Manh (Karma) are Roman Catholics, Danielle Moonstar hasn't said, and Amara Aquilla most definitely is not. She's a pagan.

Dear Mr. Lee:

Who said you can't believe everything you read in the comics?

On Page 7 of THE NEW MUTANTS (#14), April 1983, it says, ". . . Rome, New York is nice."

It sure is!

Thanks for the mention. Can you give us any idea of how we happened to be mentioned? We are pleased, of course, by the mention particularly since it is favorable. We'd like to know who our fan or fans are so we can thank them personally.

Thank you for your attention.

Cordially,

Carl J. Eilenberg
Mayor, City of Rome, New York

If you can't believe what you read in comics, for crying out loud, what *can* you trust?! But seriously, the mention grew out of pleasant memories from longer ago than some of us here care to think about when the writer went to school upstate. We're pleased that you're pleased, your Honor — anytime!

Bravissimi!

First of all, it's great having the kids back in school. It's also wonderful finally to see Kitty Pryde talk with the New Mutants. She should remain peripheral to the book, but for all her experience with the X-Men, she is still a teenager and would only naturally be in the same classes and some of the social life of her peers. I hope we will continue to see a little of Kitty, but frequently. Come to think of it, the adult X-Men are under the same roof. Despite the obvious need to keep the books separate, it seems unnatural that two groups should cohabit the same residence yet appear together so rarely. There should be at least the occasional light chat over a snack. Teenagers often turn to a sympathetic adult and the X-Men are the most sympathetic adults I can think of. In the New Mutants' case, they are the *only* sympathetic adults. Rahne and Rogue have oddly similar insecurities about fitting in and the alienating effects of their powers. Both feel like outcasts, even among their only companions, fearing and craving friendship.. Together they could share strength and reveal depth without losing those sad, tender qualities.

I love Rahne and was glad to see her exalting, if only for a moment, in her transitional leap in Stevie's studio. The poor girl feels ugly and stupid. Let her excel at dance and poetry, even if she'd be embarrassed to have anybody see her dance or read her poetry.

Amara's introduction to the school was nicely done and I look forward to her developing adaptation to the modern world.

Beverly Ramsgate
PO Box 6704
San Francisco, California 94101

In many cases, Beverly, what you request has already come to pass — much of it in this very issue! We see X-Men — namely Colossus and Nightcrawler — helping their younger counterparts, and Rahne in her secret hideaway, taking her first steps down a long literary path. Kitty has also made a number of appearances — indeed, the kids got into a heap of trouble rescuing her last winter from the White Queen. Since her roommate — and best friend — Illyana Rasputin, is one of the Mutants, it stands to reason that she'll be involved with them from time to time in the future (that is, once she returns — *if* she returns — from her adventure in Japan, chronicled in this summer's KITTY PRYDE AND WOLVERINE limited series.)

Marvel:

I've noticed with interest the comments in letters concerning Rahne Sinclair, especially those dealing with her Fundamentalist upbringing. I was also brought up in Fundamentalism, and I hope Miss Sinclair can keep those beliefs. Yes, they often cause people to develop deep inhibitions, but they can also cause people to stop and think about the ethics of their actions while others simply act, and that's an important factor when you're talking about people with the power of the New Mutants.

Rahne Sinclair doesn't have to lose her background to become a better person; rather, she represents the perfect opportunity to demonstrate that, just like Americans or Russians or liberals or any ethnic group you care to name, there are also good and bad Fundamentalists. Rahne's one of the good ones, and her beliefs don't have to be denied to change that.

I also enjoy your development of Sam Guthrie. People who thought he was going to be a "typical hick" are slowly learning that backwoods or West Virginia doesn't mean "hick," and relatively poor and uneducated doesn't mean "dumb." West Virginia has taken a bum rap for many years. The roads may be terrible (well . . . some of them, at least, if your brakes are bad), but there's nothing wrong with the people.

Rick S. Jones
11292 W 17B
Argos, Indiana 46501

No argument, Rick, to either point.

Dear Editor:

AT LAST! Illyana uses her abilities! What's this? S'ym is now her servant? Interesting?! And what's more?! Prof X can walk without pain! TOO MUCH!

"Them Bones"
(M.T. Lunsford)
119 B Hampton Road
McDonough, GA 30253

Pal, you ain't seen *nothin'* yet!

Dear Mutants:

I am no great fan of these New Mutants. I read the book solely because it is so closely intertwined with the X-Men. The cover of #13 was well drawn but the cover copy was hardly realistic. Neither were Kitty's tears. The thought of not joining the New Mutants would not bring her to tears. More likely she would jump for joy. Maybe those were tears of joy?

I like the feud between Kitty and the Mutants. I can certainly understand why Kitty doesn't like them. It was Xavier's fault. If he hadn't tried to stick her in the new team, they might have gotten along okay. But after being an X-Man and living pretty much as an adult, the comparatively boring world of the "X-Babies" would be totally unacceptable to anyone. Talk about insults. No one would appreciate being reduced from "tablecloth" to "napkin." I certainly wouldn't expect to live after going into Jim Shooter's office and telling him that he is going to be demoted to a gofer. See my point? I can also understand why Kitty thinks of the new team as babies even though two of them are older than her. She is very mature and

has a genius level IQ. She has lived with adults and fought as an adult and deserves to be treated accordingly, and with the proper respect. The Mutants, on the other hand, can barely fathom the meaning of the word "mutant." They wouldn't know a ram card if it bit them. Knowing about such things has little to do with maturity, but it does show how hard it would be for Kitty to work with the new team. The Mutants' reaction to the term "X-Babies" only served to reenforce the reason Kitty made it up in the first place. In short, they are children, and as Nightcrawler said of Kitty and Illyana in MARVEL TEAM-UP #135, "After all they have been through, they are hardly children." I hope the feud will continue for a while. Why did Kitty appear in this book? I hope you are not still thinking of sticking her in the new team. If you do, I'll probably drop both books. No kidding.

I think Amara is a jerk. Cannonball is the only member of the team with half an ounce of personality.

Vince Watkins
3303 Willie Way
Spring, Texas 77380

Hate to tell you, Vince, but that feud is pretty much past history — and it went, basically, for the same reason that Xavier reversed his decision and returned Kitty to the X-Men. As she proved herself to him and earned his respect, so they did to her by coming to her rescue last winter.

Dear Editor:

I read NM #14 and then reread it and I had to laugh at what Illyana said about the Professor not liking to show his feelings, because at the end of the book he is joking with the kids at the party, he tells them how proud he is of them, and then he gets up and waltzes with Illyana. Doesn't like to show his feelings, huh, people?

If the New Mutants and the X-Men were just more relaxed around him, he'd be able to show his feelings more. Throwing the party for him proved that.

The X-Men and New Mutants need to be friends with the Professor just as Illyana said Kitty was a friend to her. If they could do that, then everything would be cool between them. After all the Professor has done for his students, they could at least give it a try. I'm sure he would treasure it as much as Illyana does Kitty's friendship.

Theresa Fisher
(no address)

The major reason for the Professor's reserve, Theresa, has to do with his power. If he doesn't keep his telepathic ability under strict control, he'll be overwhelmed by the thoughts of everyone in his immediate vicinity. Considering how powerful he is, "immediate vicinity" could mean for *miles* around, which in the New York City area means *millions* of people! It would drive him insane. That control means it's very hard for him to relax and be at east. He has to be forever on his guard. Also, people have a suspicion that, because he is a telepath, he might be manipulating their thoughts and emotions; by maintaining an emotional distance from those he cares for, he believed he was removing that fear. The kids are helping to teach him that such isn't necessarily so, that they trust him absolutely and completely, so he's learning a little from his students just as they're learning from him.

Dear Mutants & Friends:

I'm full of praise, a few criticisms, comments and so on, but right now I'll limit myself to one question (or, perhaps, criticism) and one suggestion.

Question / criticism: why is it that whenever the Mutant Question comes up on a national scale and is discussed on TV and so forth, there never seems to be a small but vociferous group of mutant supporters made up of people whose lives the X-Men have saved and who were in a position to know it? Ain't there no gratitude no more?

Suggestion: if Kitty keeps taking a condescending attitude towards the New Mutants they should start responding in kind. "Qoooh! 'X-Babies,' huh? Listen to Grandmother Pryde, here! Hey, Grandma, after you've finished your nap, why don't you drag your poor tired old bones down to the Danger Room and work out with us — if your heart's up to it! And after that, maybe you can tell us all a story — about the dinosaurs when you were a little girl!"

Alice E. Willoughby
324 Emerson St.
Palo Alto, California 94301

Actually, Alice, such a group is about to make its initial appearance in upcoming issues of THE DEFENDERS, just to prove that some college students in the '80's can get as passionately committed to a cause as their forebears in the '60's. More power to 'em! Nice thought about Kitty and the kids; the feud is pretty much over but who says people can't still throw a few gratuitous barbs?

Dear Makers of Mutant Madness and Mirth;

While comic books have wrenched a number of emotions from me at various times through certain plot developments, they have never made me cry.

I get very involved in the comics I read, and when reading tend to think of the major characters as good friends I'm visiting to catch up on what's been going on in their lives. Of course, in reality, I know better, but it's a good testimony to your skills that you can make me, and I'm sure many others, feel this way.

When Phoenix died, I felt shock and horror, even disbelief, calmed somewhat by the Watcher's explanation. When Professor Xavier first stood on two feet in X-MEN #167, I felt great joy and then concern when he collapsed. Also, the little cynic in the back of my mind said, "Oh well, nice while it lasted." I still kept pulling for him, and was beginning to wonder if he'd ever get on his feet.

When Professor Charles Xavier stood up in NEW MUTANTS #14 and danced with Illyana, tears came to my eyes. It was all the more appropriate they were celebrating Christmas at the time.

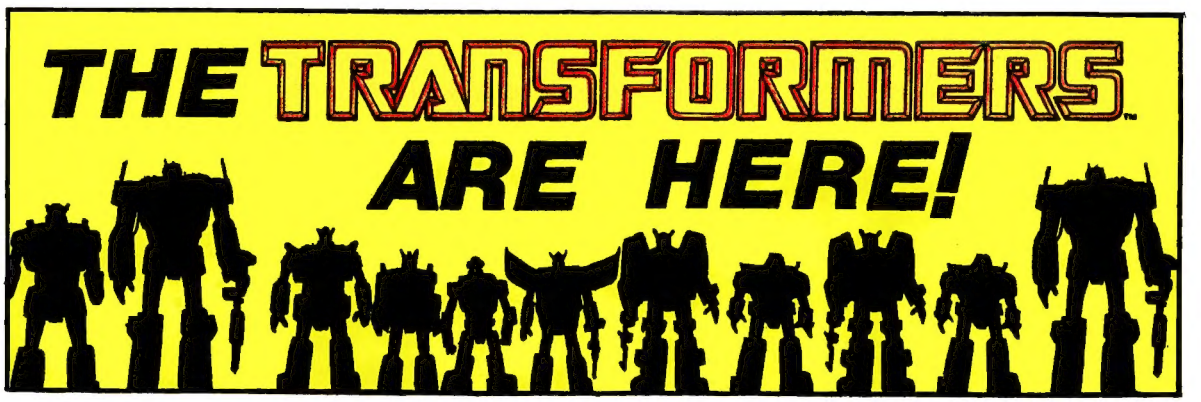
Thank you for adding some more joy to my holiday season. Merry Christmas to Xavier, the X-Men, the New Mutants and all of you at Marvel! May 1984 be something special.

Thomas Wheeler
1511 W. Sendero Cuatro
Tucson, Arizona 85704

We aim to please, Tom — that waltz made us feel pretty darn good, too.

By the way, speaking of special events in 1984, have you been keeping track of Peter Rasputin's ongoing romance with the mysterious lady healer Zsaji that's occuring in MARVEL SUPER HEROES SECRET WARS — the epic saga which pits the X-Men, Fantastic Four, Avengers, Spider-Man, and the Incredible Hulk against the most formidable villains in the Marvel Universe? If you haven't, then get with it!

NEXT ISSUE: Roberto's father and Selene are initiated into the Hellfire Club! Colossus and Sunspot have a rematch! Rahne disappears! Something nasty is happening to the youngest New Mutants — and Dani and Sam have to find out what, and try to stop it, though both fear they may already be too late. In 30 days, *SHADOWMAN!*



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Syl3nt Bob and PhD

He's a gonna be OKAY!

I think...